Prepare for the talk

The presenter is a Computer Engineering student at SFU called Alvin David, who has done Coop at Verathon Medical as a test engineer and Intel Corp as a software engineer. He is going to share his tips and advice on how people can stand out while apply for coop.

Standing Out by Alvin David for FAS Coop SP21

GOAL:
Let's get you that coop with all your experience so far.

Four topics to cover today
Soft Skills --> Extracurriculars --> Myths --> Standing Out

Introduction
My name is Alvin David!
Program: ENSC - Computer Engineering
Co-ops: Verathon Medical & Intel Corp.
Extracurriculars: FAS, ESSS President, Welcome Day

1st Coop Verathon Medical
Worked on GlideScope, which is a tool to help doctors and nurses to look for any obstruction or do treatment inside of people's throat.

2nd Coop Intel Corp
Worked on their chip that stores photo repository

Soft Skills
Communication, Teamwork, Resourcefulness, Listening, and Adventurous

Verathon Medical - Test Engineer
Communication & Teamwork
- Team of five Coops testing the GlideScope
  - Go through the UI, database interaction, videos and cameras.
- Communicating errors to debug
  - Communicate the bugs in a way that they would understand what's happening
    - Explain the steps you went through to get that bug
    - Explain how you can approach debugging this problem
- Distributing tasks
  - Help each other in order to grab information for the developers

Intel Corporation - ASIC Power Efficiency
Resourcefulness, Listening, Adventurous
- Know your available resources.
  - Past class resources, and talk to manager or whoever has more experience than you
- Being attentive at all times.
  - 1 hour stand up meeting everyday
  - Talking bugs about other people have can also solve your bug
- Never stagnate; take challenges!

What soft skills do you have?
- Do you have a knack for writing emails?
- Are you adaptable to your environment?
- Critical thinking skills impeccable?

Think back to your past experiences. What were you comfortable with?

Extracurriculars
- Extracurriculars and interests show your personality
  - Sets you apart from other candidates
- Extra points if it's a technical club!
- Clubs simulate an actual workplace with managers, coworkers, and goals.
- Anyone in clubs would love to tell you their co-op experiences (and interview questions)!

List of FAS Clubs
- Robot Soccer
- SFU Aerospace
- SFU Satellite Design
- Team Guaradian (Drones)
- Team Phantom (Electric Cars)
- SFU Rocketry
- SFU Surge
- SFU Student Energy
- Women in Engineering
- Women in Comp. Science
- Women in Clean Tech
- Student Societies (ESSS, and CSSS)

Soft skills --> Extracurriculars
- Develop your soft skills!
- A place close to home to gain experience -- while having fun!
- Gain technical resources and experience from club execs
- Joining a club takes courage. Be comfortable being uncomfortable.

Myths

I've forgotten everything I learned in my courses
- It's difficult to remember everything. Only extensive tie and effort truly allows you retain information.
- Everything is gained through experience!

My classmates are more capable than me.
- On paper though, you have taken the same courses!
- Initially, companies will see then same resume and experience. What sets you apart?

I won't have an interest in these positions
- The job description will not always accurately describe your actual tasks!
- Companies hire coops in order to mentor them. They want you to learn and gain something from it.

My GPA isn't good enough
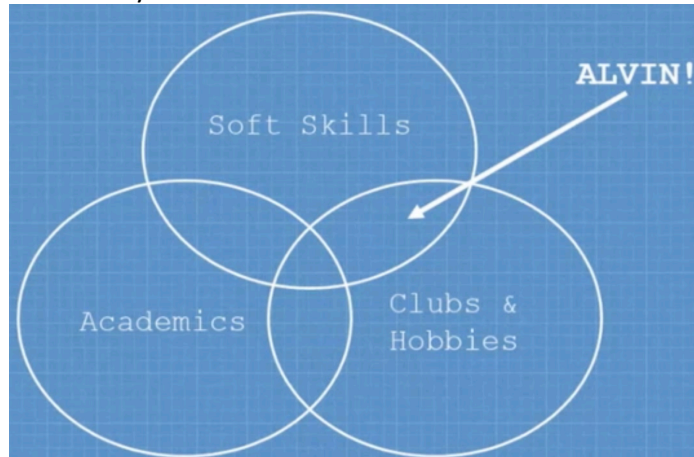- In my experience, this is the last thing they look at!

You're more capable than you think!
Companies find coops to mentor the new generation.
Keep an open mind for any opportunity.

Standing out

Where do you fall?

Summarize

As a student, we should develop our soft skill because skills like communication is really important when working with other people at Coop. We can gain these soft skills by attending some extra curriculum activities at school like joining a club or try something outside of tech. Being successful in Coop is not always about having the best grades at school, it is using what you learn outside of classes to help you stand out when applying to Coops.